CURET SAVIT

8 June 1967

USS LIBERTY

(USN-855) (AGTR-5)

Chronology of Events

23 May

DIRNSA requested JCS/JRC to authorize diversion of the

USS LIBERTY due to Mid-East Crisis in view of the ship's

capabilities (better on-station time and collection platform

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Tab A (DIRNSA ADP/224-67 231729Z)

25 May

Action was initiated to provide the USS LIBERTY with three NSA civilians:

Mr. Allen M. Blue

GG-7

Mr. Donald L. Blalock

GG-7

Mr. Robert L. Wilson

GG-7

Tasking was coordinated for both the transit to the OP area and during the time on station and supplied to USN-855. Tab B (K12/585 292201Z, K12/606 022333Z, K12/611 022335Z)

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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 01-16-2007 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended. ST case 51668

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29 May

JCS approved the diversion and requested that CINCLANT change OPCON of the LIBERTY to CINCEUR. Additionally, JCS informed CINCEUR to make preparations for extended deployment of the LIBERTY to the Mid-East area. Tab C (JCS 6499 2916022).

DIRNSA requested JCS approval of OP areas for the LIBERTY operations and proposed OP area 3 (Tab D) as the initial area subject to adjustment as necessary for operational and safety reasons (Tab E) (ADP/242-67 292013Z).

1 June

JCS requested CINCEUR to deploy the LIBERTY to OP area 3 stipulating a closest point of approach (CPA) to Algeria, Eibya and UAR of 13 nautical miles during the transit. Upon arrival at OP area 3 on or about 9 June the CPA directed by JCS was 12.5 nautical miles to the UAR and 6.5 nautical miles to Israel.

(Tab F) (JCS 6724 011545Z)

2 June

The LIBERTY deployed from Rota, Spain at 021230Z through the Straits of Gibraltar following a coastal route to OP area 3. (Tab G)



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5 June

In view of the outbreak of hostilities, Messrs. Harvey and Sheck, Ki2, called JCS/JRC and asked Mr. J. Connell, NSALO, if a change in CPA was contemplated. Reference was made to Mr. Connell of the 1962 Cuban Crisis. At that time the OXFORD was withdrawn from the Havana area and positioned further at sea. Mr. Connell conferred with LCDR Anderson, action officer for ship movements, JRC, and advised Messrs. Harvey and Sheck that no action was contemplated at that time.

CINCUSNAVEUR directed the LIBERTY to change operational control to the Commander, Sixth Fleet and informed the Commander, Sixth Fleet of the change in order to "facilitate command and control and possible requirement for protection during Mid-East hostilities. The message also authorized modification of the JCS-originated plan of operations (Tab F) should safety reasons so dictate. (Tab H) (CINCUSNAVEUR 061357Z). Subsequently Commander, Sixth Fleet issued his OPCON change message to the LIBERTY (Tab I) (COM6THFLT 062349Z)



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7 June

DIRNSA requested JCS for immediate action to change the OP area of the LIBERTY from Area 3 to Area 2 in order to satisfy tasking requirements. G considered that the changing target environment dictated a change in OP area. (Tab J) (DIRNSA K12/631 0721042)

The LIBERTY arrived on station at 072300Z in OP Area 3.

She reported her position at 070800Z and stated she would remain stationary within 30 nautical miles of a point 68 nautical miles northeast of Port Said and 33 nautical miles from the closest land. (Tab K) (USS LIBERTY 070908Z)

On the afternoon of 7 June Mr. Connell from JRC telephoned Messrs. Harvey and Sheck to inform them of discussions underway between Navy and JCS/JRC on the possibility of changing the CPA of the LIBERTY. Since the LIBERTY was 350-400 miles away from the closest Sixth Fleet ships, there was concern within JRC. CAPT Rorax, USN of JRC has questioned Mr. Connell on a possible adverse effect on the SIGINT mission should JCS change the CPA. Messrs. Harvey and Sheck declined to make any statement to Mr. Connell, since changes in the CPA for

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operational or safety reasons were considered a military command decision and NSA would not be involved. Prior to the close of business Mr. Connell saw a message from JCS/JRC changing the CPA of the LIBERTY to 20 nautical miles to the UAR and 15 nautical miles to Israel. A second paragraph changed the OP area to Area 2 as requested by DIRNSA on 5 June. However, the message as sent by JRC (Tab L) (JCS 6724 072230Z) did not contain the change in OP area. It was decided (by CAPT Rorax) to do one thing at a time. It later turned out that JRC was overtaken by events in changing the OP area.

Later in the evening Mr. Connell received a call from JRC requesting a chop on a JCS message changing the CPA to 100 nautical miles. Captain Vineyard, JRC, indicated to Mr. Connell the reasons for the change were at the outset primarily political in origin. Since Ambassador Goldberg had stated at the UN that no U.S. Navy ships were within 350-400 nautical miles of the UAR/Israel area, the Chairman, JCS and the Navy felt that support should be given to the position.

During the night a message was received by JCS from Commander, Sixth Fleet (Tab M) (COMSTHFLT 071503Z) stating that "no operations,"



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either surface or air, were permitted within 100 miles of Israel, Syria, or Egypt or within 25 miles of Cyprus." This message is a status report of Sixth Fleet operations apparently prompted by the allegation in the UN by the Arabs of U.S. and British participation in the Israeli air strikes against the UAR. JCS reaction was to send a message to CINCEUR, INFO LIBERTY, cancelling the 20 nautical mile message (Tab L) and defining the new CPA "no closer than 100 nautical miles from Israel, Syria, Egypt and 25 nautical miles to Cyprus. (Tab N) (JCS 7347 080110Z). Since the attack on the LIBERTY occurred at 081205Z, it is extremely unlikely that the LIBERTY could have received and taken action on the message in time. Additionally, CINCEUR would be required to send a message implementing the JCS decision. (Tab O is Gen. Kellond's M/R concerning the NSA/IRC discussions. Additional information was provided by Mr. Connell and Mr. Sheck.) 8 June

COM6THFLT reported that at 1252Z the USS LIBERTY reported she was under attack at position 31.23N by 33.25E - *(a) hit by



^{*}Letters are keyed to reported positions and depicted in Tab D.

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torpedo and listing badly. (Tab P) (COM6THFLE 081320Z) The USS SARATOGA reported to CINCUSNAVEUR that the USS LIBERTY had reported three unidentified gunboats approaching her position. This message was readdressed from DIRNAVSECGRUEUR to NSG info DIRNSA. (Tab Q) (DIRNAVSECGRUEUR 081335Z)

DIRNAVSECGRUEUR relayed another message to NSG, info DIRNSA, from the USS SARATOGA reporting that the attack at position 31.23N by 33.28N, (a) "hit by torpedo starboard side, listing badly. Request assistance immediately." (Tab R) (DIRNAVSECGRUEUR 081336Z)

COMCARDIV FOUR informed DIRNSA that the USS LIBERTY A at position 31,23N by 33,35E (b) was hit by torpedo. (Tab S) (COMCARDIV FOUR 081338Z)

DIRNAVSECGRUEUR message to NSG, info DIRNSA, quoted USS SARATOCA quote of message from USS LIBERTY as follows: "I am under attack. My position 33.25E by 31.23N. (a) I have been hit. Request immediate (Missed portion)." (Tab I) (DIRNAVSECGRUEUR 081338Z)

COM6THFLT informed DIRNSA that the USS LIBERTY was at position 31,23N by 33,25E (a) hit by torpedo on starboard side.

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Three unidentified gunboats approaching vessel. LIBERTY listing badly. (Tab U) (COM6THFLT 081349Z)

The U.S. Defense Attache at TEL AVIV reported that "ALUSNA — to called (for) FLO to receive report that Israeli aircraft and motor torpedo boats erroneously attacked U.S. ship at 081200Z, position 31.25N by 33.33E (c) May be Navy ship. IDF helicopters in rescue operations. No other info. Israelis send abject apologies and request info of other U.S. ships near war zone coasts." (Tab V) (USDAO TEL AVIV 081414Z)

forwarded a message to DIRNSA originated by the USS LIBERTY to CNO that at 081205Z, while the ship was on a course of 283 degrees, at a speed of 5 knots, position 31.35.5N; 33.29E, (d) she was attacked by unidentified jet fighters, believed to be Israeli.

Approximately six straffing runs were made on the ship. At approximately 1225Z, three Israeli torpedo boats approached on, the starboard quarter at high speed, at approximately 1427Z, the USS LIBERTY took torpedo boat under fire by 50 caliber machine guns at a range of approximately 2000 yards. Torpedo boat launched torpedos in straffing attack. Approximately one minute later the USS LIBERTY sustained a torpedo hit on the starboard side.

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After attack ship had ten degree starboard list but watertight boundaries were established and holding. There was extensive superficial damage topside with lower deck spaces, forward destroyed.

Communications capabilities were limited. Number of dead was estimated at ten, seriously wounded estimated at 15, total wounded at 75 and an undetermined number of missing. The USS LIBERTY reported she was unable to carry out her mission. (Tab W) Ø818122)

Following the incident, the UBS LIBERTY proceeded north at eight knots to rendezvous with two DDRs sent to aid and escort her.

The following is a recapitulation of the Director's recollections of events incident to the attack.

On Thursday morning, 8 June, at approximately \$915 hours, the Director was informed by the NSA SIGINT Command Center through his Executive Assistant that the USS LIBERTY had been torpedoed somewhere in the Mediterranean, that she was listing badly, and that there was no other information available. A subsequent report placed her

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report (subsequently found to be factual) placed her some 15 miles off the Sinai coast in waters of about 35-40 fathoms. The Director immediately directed: The following actions are not chronological order or in order of priority and all were not taken at the initial notification. By 1100 hours, however, there were all fully in train as a result of discussions with senior officials of the Agency.)

Reallocation of coverage to substitute, insofar as possible, for that lost by the LIBERTY;

Continuation of the ACRP flights from Athens;

Plans to rapidly refit and send to the Mediterranean the USS BELMONT (a similarly equipped ship), which was about one day out of Worfolk on the way in;

Immediate and continuous contact with NMCC, JRC, and the White House to insure full coordination of information,

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A review of the current status for responsibility for command, control, security, combat support, and location of the vessel;

Necessary action to insure that, if the vessel were totally disabled or in danger of sinking, the security of the cryptographic assets be guaranteed either by removal to appropriate safekeeping or by destruction prior to sinking;

In the event of sinking, the location of the sinking must be secured and efforts made to refloat or at least re-acquire all of the sensitive materials on board:

The establishment of a small group in the outer office of the Director/Deputy Director to start recording a chronology of events, to keep it current, and to keep the Director/Deputy Director fully informed on the premises.

At about \$945 hours, the Director began to receive telephone calls from the NSA SIGINT Command Center, the



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P2/Watch Committee office, the JRC, PROD, and others.

Additionally, from the conversations held with Captain

Cook (Director, NSG), Dr. Shinn (NSA member of the Watch

Committee), and personnel from Dl and PROD, it soon

became apparent to the Director that a considerable

amount of misinformation was circulating within the

Community and that some fairly precipitous actions

seemed to be developing.

At about 1015 hours, the Director received a call from Secretary McNamara, who stated that he felt the need for making a public release immediately and that he needed facts. He asked the Director the name of the ship, if it had a Naval designation, and if there were any civilians on board. He was told the "LIBERTY" "AGTR" which stands for Technical Research Ship, and three civilians who could be considered technical representatives. When he asked about the complement of the ship, the Director told him he was not certain and would get the information for him. At this point, the Director



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realized that the information Mr. McNamara wanted exceeded that available in his office. He told Mr. McNamara he would have Captain Cook, Director of NSG, telephong him immediately. The Director immediately called Captain Cook to learn that he was at the dentist; the Director spoke to Captain Thomas, Deputy Director, NSG, and instructed him to call Mr. McNamara immediately, prepared to answer any and all questions concerning the LIBERTY. Captain Thomas replied that it would take him several minutes to get the proper person but he would comply immediately. The Director then called Mr. McNamara's office and advised the telephone operator that a Captain Thomas would be calling on his behalf and to put him through to Mr. McNamara immediately. About ten minutes later, Mr. McNamara called the Director and said he had not been called by the person the Director said would call, and asked for his name and telephone number. The Director gave him Captain Thomas' name and telephone number 60444. Then when the Director called Captain Thomas, he was told that Captain Thomas was talking to Mr. McNamara.



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Captain Thomas later told the Director that, when he called Mr. McNamara, he was diverted to one of Mr. McNamara's assistants who tried to take down the information. But Mr. McNamara personally called Captain Thomas and the latter was switched over to Mr. McNamara. After talking to Mr. McNamara, Captain Thomas called and advised the Director that he had confirmed the information already furnished Mr. McNamara and that he had reported a complement of 15 officers and 279 enlisted men, of which the SIGINT Detachment was six officers and 128 enlisted men (the latter figures were initially reported to Mr. McNamara as comprising the total complement of the ship by someone in the Pentagon). When Mr. McNamara asked about the ship's function, Captain Thomas replied quoting the unclassified mission statement: "conducting technical research operations in support of U.S. Navy electromagnetic communications and advanced communications systems to include satellites." Captain Thomas also reported that the ship had departed Rota, Spain, on 2 June.



Shortly after or during the foregoing dialogue, the Director called Captain Vineyard of the JRC (General Steakley was apparently with Mr. Vance and Mr. McNamara) and alerted him to the extreme sensitivity of the materials on board and the mission of the LIBERTY, and stated that if it appeared the ship was going to sink, it was essential that the security of the sinking site be maintained. The Director continued by stating that it would be necessary to get down and remove the sensitive material from the ship because he knew the ship was only about 15 miles off shore and in an area of 35-40 fathoms of water.

captain Vineyard later called the Director to advise him that there were plans underway to sink the ship and asked for his views in this regard. The Director told him that to sink the ship at that depth would create a real security problem unless they had already destroyed their sensitive materials. He added that there were millions of dollars worth of very exotic equipment on board that should be saved if at all possible. While



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engaged in this call, the Director received another call from General Spivey from the NMCC who was about to ask the same question about sinking the LIBERTY when the Director was informed that the LIBERTY was underway on her own steam at eight knots on course of 3400, that the listing had been controlled, that the emergency destruction of sensitive materials had been completed, and that there were four dead and more than 50 wounded. (General Spivey received this information while the Director was concurrently receiving it from his own Command Center via NSG.) General Spivey said there were several commercial vessels in the vicinity and asked if there was a security problem in having them help if needed. The Director told him that there was no security problem in light of the reported emergency destruction and since the skipper of the LIBERTY could easily separate or compartment any sensitive equipment. At about this time, information was received that the Israelis had admitted that they had mistakenly attacked the vessel and had submitted their abject apologies (The Director was previously informed that





aircraft had been dispatched to sink the attackers and, about this time, he was told the aircraft had been recalled).

JRC, NMCC, and NSG have been alerted by the Director to the sensitivity of the equipment and documents on board and the need for insuring their safekeeping.

The Director made two calls to Mr. Bromley Smith at the White House, keeping him up to date on the information available and the actions taken. Mr. Smith seemed to find this extremely helpful and of the highest order of immediacy since there was a meeting in progress at the White House (the participants were not mentioned), and he had supplied the information to them immediately. (The press later in the evening reported that President. Johnson was on the "hot-line" with Premier Kosygin in the morning explaining the initial scrambling of Sixth Fleet aircraft, later recalled.

Sometime during the foregoing discussions, Captain
Thomas informed the Director that the

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it did not have the capabilities of the LIBERTY, it could be of some help.

The foregoing summarizes the Director's personal participation in the activities of this morning. In most of his conversations, Dr. Tordella was present or listening in on the other telephone and Mr. Burke or one of his assistants was present in the Director's office.



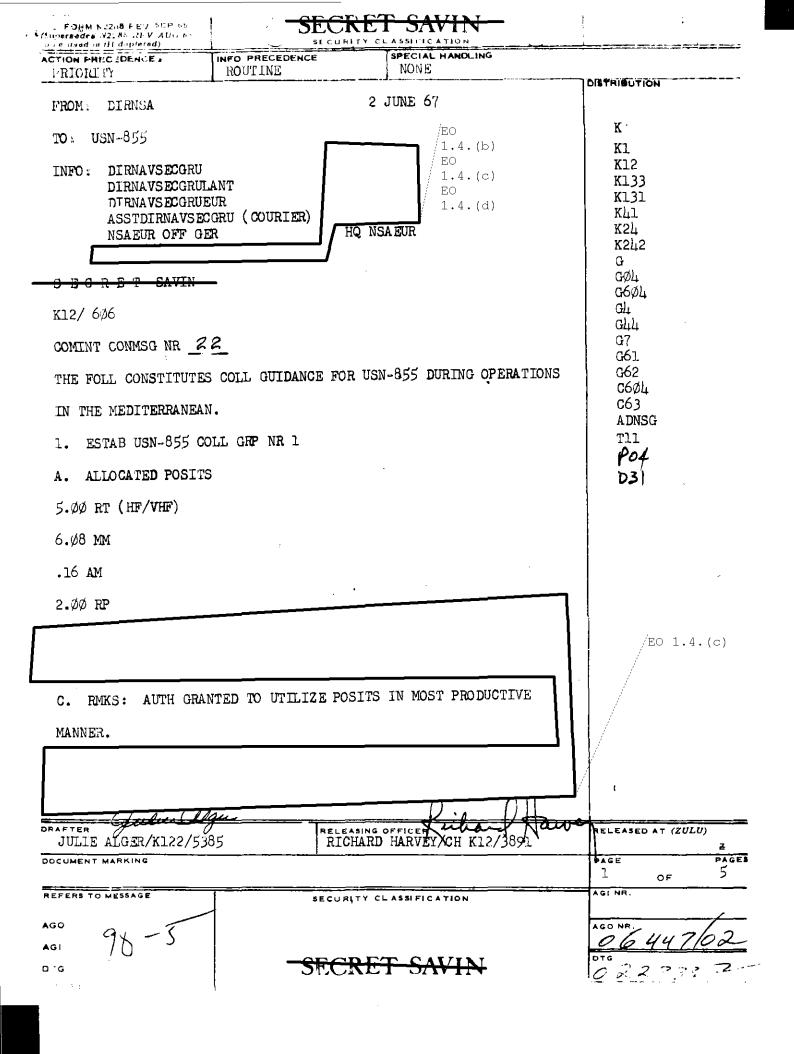
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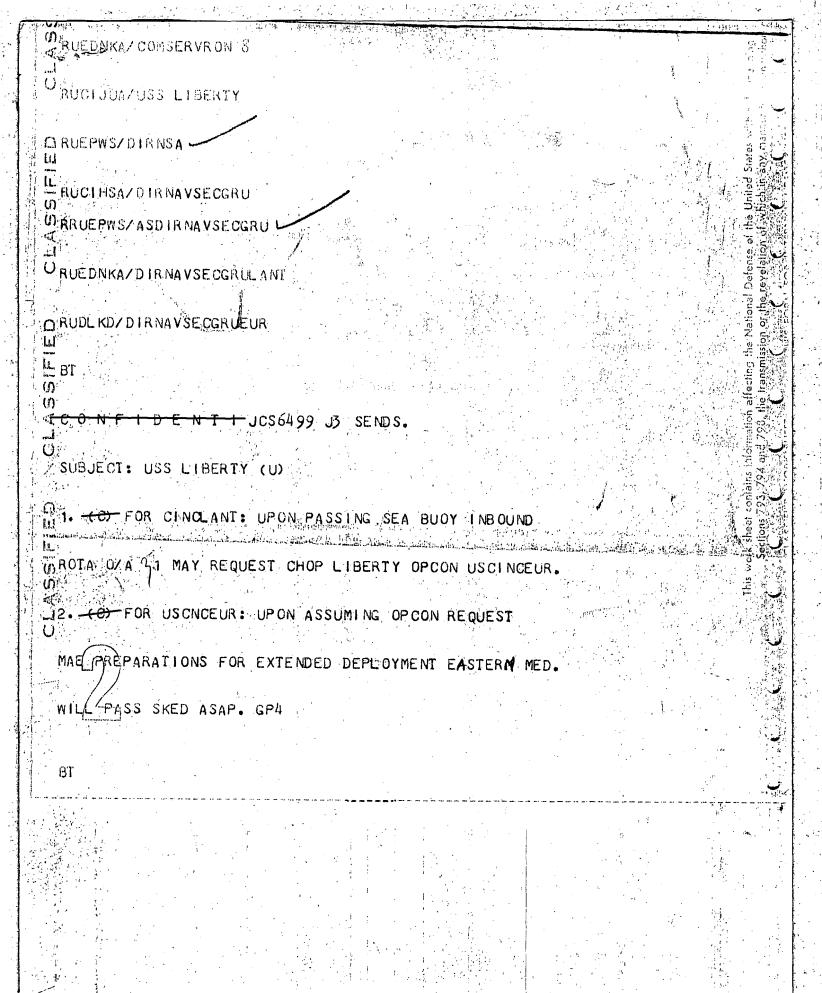
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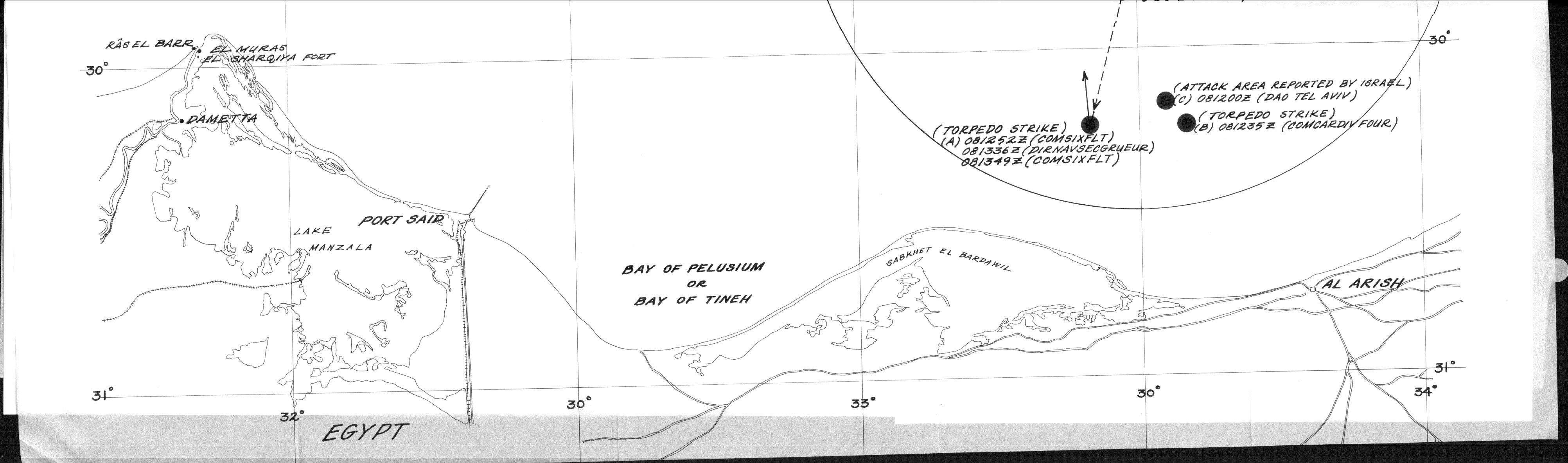
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ETA 072300Z (USS LIBERTY 070908Z * WITHIN 30 N.M.

(D) 081205 Z (ORIGINATED BY USS LIBERTY) AIR STRIKE



MESSA E FORM N2286 REV SEP 65 (Supera: Jes N2288 RRV AUG 65 to be used until depleted) SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SPECIAL HANDLING ACTION PRECEDENCE DISTRIBUTION O Pat ‴P.L. 86-36 CONCUR: PO4 SHOWN TO ADNSG: CTCS SCHAFFER **GO4** G604 M/R: REF REQUESTED JCS/JRC TO DIVERT USS 1/BERTY FROM ABIDJAN AFRICA TO EASTERN MED. MESSAGE INFORMED JCS/JRC SPECIFIC OP AREA WILL BE FORWARDED FOR APPROVAL WHEN DETERMINED BY ANALYTICAL ELE-MENTS (G GROUP). 1122/5385 RELEASING OFFICER RELEASED AT (ZULU) DOCUMENT MARKING PAGE OF REFERS TO MESSAGE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

AGO NR.

AGO

AGI.

	12288 REV SEP 65 N2288 REV _a AUG 65 Itil depleted)	· ·	CLASSIFI : ATION	<u></u>	
ACTION PRE		INFO PRECEDENCE	SPECIAL HANDLING		
	IMMED	IMMELD	NONE	- 	DISTRIBUTION
FROM:	JCS	DATE: Ø2 JUN 67		INFO:	K K1
TO:	USICINCEUR	///ADV COPY P2	1 VIA DDP///		G G5 -
INFO:	CNO CINCLANTEL CINCUSNAVE		GRU		G6 G7 PØ2

DIRNAVSECGRU

ASSTDIRNAVSECGRU

DIRNAVSECGRULANT DIRNAVSECGRUEUR

JCS 6724 J-3 SENDS

SUB.I: USS LIBERTY SKED (U)

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMS (XTHFLT) CTF 64.

USS LIBERTY

REF DIRNSA G/104/311906Z MAY (NOTAL-BOM)

1. (S) WHEN RFS REQUEST SAIL LIBERTY IAW FOLLOWING

SKED:

A. 2 JUN DEPART ROTA.

B. 2-8 JUN. ENTROUTE VIA GIBRALTAR STRAIT CPA AS SAFE NAV PERMITS. THAN VIA NORTHERN AFRICA COASTAL

ROUTE TO POSIT 32-00N 33-00E. CPA MOROCCO MALTA

3 NM CLAIMED DIST 3 NM. CPA SPAIN TUNISIA SARDINIA

SICILY CRETE 7 NM CLAIMED DIST 6 NM. CPA ALGERIA

LIBYA UAR 13 NM CLAIMED DIST 12 NM.

C. 9-30 JUN. CONDUCT OPS SOUTH OF 32-00N AND

BETWEEN 33-00E AND 34-00E. WHILE CONDUCTING OPS CPA UAR

12.5 NM CPA ISREAEL 6.5 NM

P.L. 86-36

PØ4

ADP

DIR ADNSG

DRAFTER	RELEASING OFFICER	RELEASED AT (Z	ULU)
DGY/JFD			2
DOCUMENT MARKING	DOWNGRADED AT TO YEAR INTERVALS;	PAGE 1 OF	PAGES
REFERS TO MESSAGE	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	4Ø571	
AGO 65		AGO NR.	
AGI	OF OP PT	DTG 0115	153
DIC	- KHI KHI		r

MESSAGE

FORM N2283 REV SEP 65 (Supersedes N2288 REV AUG 65 to be used until depleted)

SECRET

SECURITY CLASSIFI LATION

ACTION PRECEDENCE

INFO PRECEDENCE

SPECIAL HANDLING

DISTRIBUTION

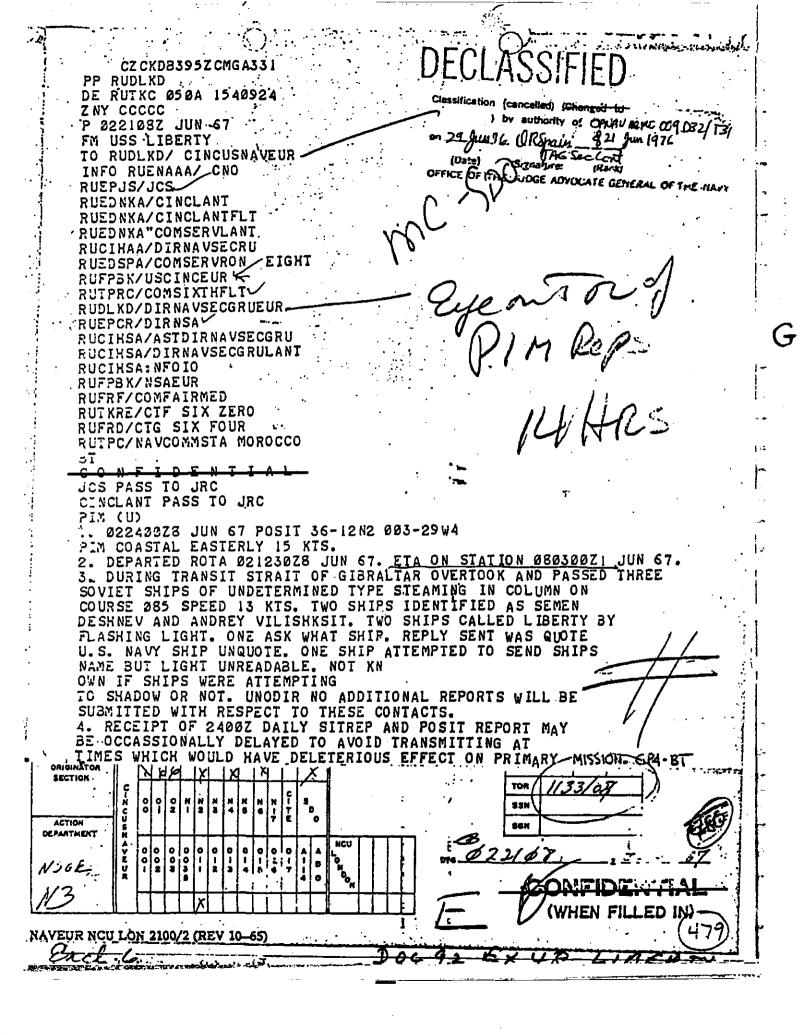
- 2. (U) REQUEST JCS (JRC) CNO CINLANT (JRC)

 CINCLANTFLT BE INCLUDED AS INKO ADDEES ON ALL MOVREPS,

 DAILY SITREPS AND INCIDENT REPORTS.
- 3. (U) ENROUTE FECH TASKING IAW REF.
- 4. (U) PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING JULY AKED FOLLOW.

CP.3

		_		
DRAFTER	RELEASING OFFICER	RELEASED AT (ZULU)		
DOCUMENT MARKING			· 2	
-	DOWNGRADED AT 10 YEAR INTERVALS,	PAGE 2 OF	PAGES 2	
REFERS TO MESSAGE	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	10571		
AGO		AGO NR.		
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an be more unite	State REV Alberta			A SHEET CALLON	- - 		
ACTION PURC		EQUITING		SPECIAL HANDLING NONE	G		
<u>P</u> R*			ma arrest -	remarkant data construction of the con-	A (2) 7" a	DISTRIBUTION	
FROM:	CINCUSNAV	EUR	DATE 8	JUNE 67	ACT:	A .	
TO:	COMSIXTHER USCINCEUR UCS CNO DIRNSA CINCLANTED DIRNAVSECO ASSTDIRNAV DIRNAVSECO HQ NSAEUR COMSERVROI COMSERVROI CTF SIX ZI CTF SIX ZI CTF SIX ZI CTF SIX CONSTA	TT GRU GRUEUR VSECGRU GRULANT O NT N EIGHT ERO DUR A MOROCCO		/P.L. 86-3	INFO:	A3 G567 K1	PO2 PO4 P2 T1 ADP DIR ADNSG
- 3 0 N	F I D E N '	F i A t					Н
USS LIB	ERTY OPERAT	TIONAL CONTRO	น/(บว				
USCINCE	UR FOR JRC	, JCS FOR JRC	CINCL	ANT FOR JR	r C		
A. MY 3	11750Z MAY	67 (LIBERTY	MOVORD	7-67, WITH	(CH=I)		
B. MY Ø	31016Z JUN	67					
C. USS	LIBERTY 02	1330Z JUN/67	(MOVREP	')			
D. JCS	Ø11545Z JUI	N 67 (US\$ LIB	ERTY SH	(ED)			
E. USS	LIBERTY 022	2108Z JÚN 67					
1. FOR	COMSIXTHFL	r. TO FACILIT	ATE ARE	CA COMMAND	A ND		
CONTROL	AND ANY PO	OSSIBLE REQUI	REMENT	FOR PROTEC	TION DURIN	4	
DRAFTER		/	E'LEASING O			RELEASED AT	_
TW/EJH	ARKING DOWNER	テスプステンカップソント	<u> </u>	BYALS:		PAGE	PAGES
REFERS TO N	7101 AU	TOMA: TOALL! I		LASSIFICATION		AGI NR.	
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AGI		_00	VIEIL	<u>SENITI A I</u>		DTG	2517
of 3	57	1	: 1 M T T T T			061.	357Z

* AESSMOS

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FORM N2266 REVIOLE	t	1	
(Supercodes N2288 REV AP)	i	í.	
to be used until depleted)			
ACTION PRECEDENCE	•		

PRIORITY

INFO PRECEDENCE

SPECI L HANDLING

MoML

DISTRIBUTION

MIDEAST MOSTILITIES, USS LIBERTY WILL BE CHOPPED TO COMSTATHFLT AT 070001Z JUN 67. OPERATE LIBERTY IAW REF D TO DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL CAPABILITIES. REF D MAY BE MODIFIED FOR SAFETY REASONS AS DICTATED BY THE LOCAL SITUATION.

A. REQUEST CHANGE PIM REPORTS (REFS A AND B) TO AS OF 1800Z, CHANGE PRECEDENCE TO IMMEDIATE AND CHANGE ADDEE FOR JUSCINCEUR TO USCINCEUR FOR JRC.

2. FOR USS LIBERTY. CHOP TO COMSIXTHELT AT 070001Z
BY MESSAGE.

A. PIM REPORT NOT RECEIVED SINCE REF E.

ap...

L23 NOTE: REF "C" IS AGI 41075

REF "D" - UNABLE TO LOCATE L23

REF "E" IS AGI 40957

			i i	
TW/EJH		RELEASING OFFICER	RELEASED AT (ZUL	 (Γ)
DOCUMENT MARKING	DOWNGRADED AT 18	2 YEAR INTRIVALS:	PAGE	PAGES
	NOT AUTOMATICALL	V TOTAL AGGIET LETT.	<u>2 </u>	
REFERS TO MESSAGE		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	AGI NR.	
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AGI		CONFIDENTIAL	OTG .	
(3.7.)		TINHIDEN LAST	ا دا د	

FORM N2288 REV SEP 05 (Supersedes N2288 REV AUG 65 to be inveit well depleted)

ACTION PRECEDENCE INFO PRECEDENCE IMMED IMMED

SPECIAL HANDLING NONE

FROM: COMSIXTHFLT

DATE: Ø6 JUN 67

DISTRIBUTION

INFO:

/ ADV CPY P21 /

PØS Α **A**3 PØIL В P2

TO:

USS LIBERTY

CONSERVLANT

P21 D32 D33 TΙ K

JCS

INFO: CINCUSNAVEUR USCINCEUR CNO DIRNSA

COMSERVRON EIGHT CTF SIX ZERO CTF SIX FOUR

ADN ΚI ADP G DIR **ADNSG** G5 <u>6</u>6

CINCLANTELT

DIRNAVSECCRU DIRNAVSECGRUEUR ASST DIRNAVSECGRU DIRNAVSECRGULANT HQ NSAEUR

NKO 10 NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO CINCLANT CTF SIX THREE CTF SIX SEVEN NAVCOMMSTA GREECE NAVCAXS MOROCCO NAVCOMMSTA SPAIN

0 N F | D E N

COMFAIRD

USS LIBERTY OPERATIONAL CONTROL

A. CINCUSNAVEUR Ø61357Z JUN 67 NOTAL

B. JCS Ø11545Z JUN 67 NOTALB



C.SLINCUSNAVEUR 311750Z MAY 67 (MOVORD 7-67) NOTAL

D. CINCUSNAVEUR Ø11305Z JUN 67 NOTAL

E. COMSIXTHFLT OPORD 1-66 NOTAL

F. CINCUSNAVEURINST PØ3120.5B NOTAL

1. UPON CHOP TO COMSIXTHELT AT 070001Z. CONDUCT OPERATIONS IAW REF

B, C AND D.

2. IN VIEW PRESENT ARAB/ISRAELI SITUATION AND UNPREDICTABILITY OF UAR ACTIONS. MAINTAIN A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE AGAINST ATTACK OR

THREAT OF ATTACK. REPORT BY FLASH PRECEDENCE ANY THREATENING OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST YOU OR ANY

RELEASED AT (ZULU) RELEASING OFFICER ED/LJH DOCUMENT MARKING PAGE PAGES 2 DECLASS IF IED 1 OF DOWNGRADED REFERS TO MESSAGE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION 41717 AGO NR. AGO 11Ø AGI — dígi. DIT 7

US JEAN GE FORM N2288 REV SEP 65 (Supersedes N2288 REV AUG 65

be used until depleted) ACTION PRECEDENCE

INFO PRECEDENCE

SPECI L HANDLING

 LMMFD

IMMED

NONE

DIVERSION FROM SCHEDULE NECESSITATED BY EXTERNAL THREAT. IF LOCAL SITUATION DICTATES CHANGE IN AREA OF OPS ASSIGNED BY REF B. 3. KEEP COMSIXTHFLT AND CTF 63 INFORMED OF LOGISTIC NEEDS SUFFIC-IENTLY IN ADVANCE TO ENABLE ORDERLY LOGSUP PLANNING. MAIL DELIVERY WILL BE ARRANGED IF FEASIBLE.

- 4. INCLUDE COMSIXTHFLT AS INFO ADDEE ON REPORTS REQUIRED BY PARA 2 REF B AS MODIFIED BY REF C AND D.
- , 5. SUBMIT REPORTS OF CONTACT WITH SHIPS AIRCRAFT AND SUBMARINES WHICH ARE UNIDENT, HOSTILE, OF INTELL INTEREST OR ENGAGE IN HARASSMENT, IAW REF F. EMERGENCY PLAN CHARLIE NOW IN EFFECT IN SIXTHFLT
 - 6. COMSIXTHFLT OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS ON ALERTS, EMERG ACTIONS AND NUCLEAR RELEASE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. THEREFORE, ACTION IS NOT REQUIRED ON NATIONAL EXERCISE AND DRILL MSGS IDENTIFIED BY FLAG WORD WHITE OR BLUE DELTA. NO ACTION REQUIRED NATO EXERCISE MSGS. IN EVENT OF ACTUAL ALERT OR OTHER EMERGENCY, COMSIXTHFLT WILL SEPARATELY DIRECT LIBERTY BY CLASSIFIED MSG.
 - 7. COMMUNICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNEX CHARLIE REF E.
 - A. COPY KR BROADCAST. ADVISE IF CARDS AVAILABLE TO COPY KRA BCST.
 - B. IF PERMENANT TERMINATION REQUIRED WITH MED COMM STA SUBMIT REQUEST IAW APPENDIX XVI TO ANNEX CHARLIE TO REF E.
 - C. ALTHOUGH NOT ASSIGNED TO TF 60 UTILIZE TF 60 TACTICAL CIRCUITS AS REQUIRED D. AUTHGRA TO ENTER SIXES ALFA AS REQUIRED.

DRAFTER KNOWLEDGE. RELEASING OFFICER GP-4 DOCUMENT MARKING

RELEASED AT (ZULU)

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2 2 of

PAGES

REPERS TO MESSAGE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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@50147:

MESSAGE FORM N2288 REV SEP 65 (Supercodes N2288 REV AUG 65 to be yeed until depleted)	-SEC	CLABSIFICATION	
ACTION PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATE	INFO PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATE	SPECIAL HANDLING	
FROM: DIRNSA TO : JCS/JRC		7 JUNE 1967	DISTRIBUTION K K1 K12
INFO: CNO USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR COMSERVLANT CINCLANTFLT COMSERVRONEIGH	DIRNAVS AS STDIR N SAE UR (ECGRUEUR ECGRULANT NAVSECGRU (COURIER) OFF CER UR	G GO4 G6 G7 PO4 P2 ADN DIR ADP ADNSG
w10//4/		•	
K12/63/	AT COMPONEY OF A SECOND		
USS LIBERTY OPERATION	1	•	
REF: A. UR Ø11545Z			
	MAY, ADP/242 (NOTAL)		
REQUEST INITIATE IMME	DIATE ACTION TO AMEND	REF BRAVO TO REFLECT	OPERA-
TIONS IN OP ARBA 2 AS	DEFINED IN NEW KERK		
CONCUR: GO4 LT. MCT	ichr s	hown to: Adnsg: CTC Mi	HRVOLD
M/R G GROUP REQUESTE FROM OP AREA 3 TO OP			
	· 	Shard Hawen	
K122/	53858 RICHA	RD HARVEY CH K12/389	LE RELEASED AT (ZULU)
GP-1 EXCLUDED FROM A	UTCHATIC DOWNCRADING	AND DECLASSIFICATION	PAGE / PAGE
AGO 105211/29 69 - 5	SEC	CRET .	06296107 0721042

t conce flx. INFO: JCS CNO . CINCLANT CINCLANTETT DIRNSA DIRNAVSECGRU ASSTD I RNAVS ECGRU CINCUSNAVEUR DIRNAVSECORULANT COMSERVLANT COMSERVRON EIGHT : **UUCINCEUR** NFO 10 NSAEUR DIRNAVSECGRUEUR COMFAIRMED CTF SIX ZERO CTF SIX FOUR NAVCOMMSTA MOROCCO

G6 **G**7 POS PQ1 P2 ADP DIR ADNSC

K T

G

 GF_{j}

JCS PASS TO JRC

USCINCEUR PASS TO JRC

CINCLANT PASS TO JRC

SITREP/POSIT

- A. USCINCEUR Ø614-ØZ JUN 67 (NOTAL)
- 1. 070800Z5 POSIT 33-06N2 28-54E9. PIM 109/16.5 UNTIL

072300Z. THENCE STATIONARY WITHIN 30NM OF 31-45N3 33-30E9.

2. SUBSEQUENT PIM/SITREP WILL BE SUBMITTD AS OF 0800Z8

GP-4		V
TW / EJH	RELEASING OFFICER	RELEASED AT (ZU
DOCUMENT MARKING		PAGE 1 OF 1
REFERS TO MESSAGE	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	42Ø85
AGO SØ		AGO NA.
P.L. 86-36	- CONFIDENTIAL	Ø7Ø9Ø8Z

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012230) 1967 JUN

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CHBJ: HEC LIBERTY (H)

RIFPRNA/DIRNAVSECGRUTEUR

REF: JOS 6704/0115457 JUN 67

1. IN VIEW PPESENT SITUATION EAST MED. OPERATING APEA SPECIFIED REF FOR CHIDANCE ONLY AND MAY BE VAIDED AS LOCAL CONDITIONS DICTATE.

2. CHAGE CPA HA TO 20 NM. ISAEL 15 NM. SP-4
BT.

, Title 18, U. S. C.,

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NAME DIV NO.
NAME DIV NO. : 65

STA NO.

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ZNY SSSSS ZOV RUEOHRA REROUTE OF RUTPRC 082 1581503
CZCRHA055

SSS

ZZ RUEPJS RUENAAA RUTPRO RUFPBK RUFPBW RUEPCR

DE RUTPRC 082 1581503

ZNY \$8888 Z 0 071832 JUN 67

FM COMSIXTHELT

TO RUEPUS/JCS

INFO RUENAAA/CNO RUTPRO/CINCUSNAVEUR

RUFPBK/USCINCEUR

10 RUFPBW/CINCUSAFE

RUEPJS/DIA

RUEPCR/NSA

BOK

SEGRET

a. CONSIXHFLT 070626Y JUN 67

1. THIS AMPLIFIES REF A.

2. PRIOR TO 052015E JUN 67 SIXHFLT AIRCRAFT WERE ENGAGED IN NORMAL TRAINING OPERATIONS IN THE SEA OF CRETE AFD SOUTH OF THE WESTERN END OF CRETE. NO AIR DIERATIONS WERE AUTHORIZED EAST OF LAT 30E OR WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE EGYPTIAN COAST. THESE RESTRICTIONS PROVIDED A MINIMUM APPROACH DISTANCE FOR AIRCRAFT TO THE COASTS OF ISRAEL AND SYRIA OF NO LESS THAN 240 MILES AND TO THE COAST OF EGYPT FROM ALEXANDRIA WEST OF NO LESS THAN 100 MILES. AT

PAGE TOWO RUTPRO 082-3-E-C 052015Z JUN 67 THEOPERATING AREA FOR SIXTHFLT UNITS WAS EXPANDED OF THE EASTERN MED EXCEPT THAT NO OPERATIONS E OR AIR. WERE PERMITED WITHIN 100 MILES OF I TO INCLUDE ALL R SURFACE OR AIR, WERE PERMITED WITHIN OR EGYPT OR WITHIN 2 MILES OF CYPRUS. SYRTA, OR EGYPT OR WITHIN 2 MILES DE CTPHUS.

3. ON 5 MAY BOTH CARRIERS WERE OPERATING IN POSITIONS WHICH WERE IN EXCESS OF 400 MILES FROM ISRAEL OR SINAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS

OR EGYPT OR WITHIN 2 MILES DE CTPHUS. ON AMERICA WERE CONDUCTED FROM 0915Z UNTIL 1235Z AND ON SAR FROM 0828Z UNTIL 1313Z. FLIGHT NZXCATIONS WERE CONDUCTED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AND WERE ROUTINE IN ALL ASPECTS. ON 6 JUN AND ON SARATOGA LIMITED AIR OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED DURING THE DAY FOR ROUTINE PURPOSES. NO NIGHT OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY EITHER CARRIER. TALL SIXTHELT GVA PILOTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN AIR OPERATIONS 15 AND 6 JUN HAVE BEEN QUERIED CONCERNING THEIR TRACK LINES ANY VOICE NOMMUNICATIONS EITHER TRANSMITTED OR RECEIVED. AT REPEAT NO TIME WERE THE AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN PARA 1. ABOVE VOILATED, 1.E., ON 5 JUN NO SIXTHFLT CVA AIRCRAFT APPROACHED THE ISRAEL OR SINA! COASTLINE CLOSER THAN 240 MILES ISRAEL, AND ON 6 JUN NO SIXTHELT CVA AIRCRAFT APPROACHED THE OR EGYPT COASTLINES CLOSER THAN 100 MILES. TRACKS FLOWN WERE ACTUALLY FARTHER FROM ISRAEL/SYRIA/EGYPT THAN THE ABOVE LIMITING

Inited States within the meaning of the Espion It is any monner to an unduflatived person

2/8/8/7 B94/8/7 3, U. S. law.

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94 and 798, the transmission or the WORK SHEET

National

information

M ™ vs PAGE THREE RUTPRC 082-S NO REPEAT NO SIXTHFLT PILOT EITHER FIGURES. DURING THESE FLIGHTS ົດ TRANSMITTED OR RECIEVED ANY RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM STATIONS EITHER IN OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANY COUNTRY IN THE MIDEAST ENGAGED IN THE CURRENT CONFLICT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY RELAY. IN SHORT, ON 5 AND 6 JUN NO SIXTHFLT AIRCRAFT OVERFLISTABLE, SYRIA, OR EGYPT AND NO COMMUNICATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED JUN NO SIXTHFLT AIRCRAFT OVERFLEW BY SIXTHFLT PILOTS WITH BY ANY OF THESE COUNTRIE ANY RADIO STATIONS CONTROLLED OR UTILIZED THESE COUNTRIES. 5. NO FLIGHT OPERATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 7 JUN FOR EITH SARATOGA OR AMERICA. THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN PARA 1 NO FLIGHT OPERATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 7 JUN FOR EITHER CLASSIFIE ABOVE CONTINUE IN EFFECT. BT CLASSIFIE NNNN

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contains information affecting the National Enforce of the United States within the meaning, of the Espionage Laws, Talle 18, U. S. C.,

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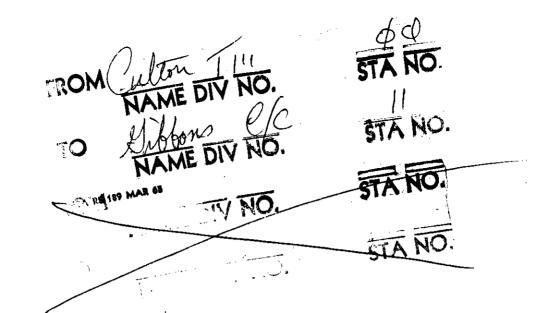
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CLASSIFIED

TO RUFPBK/USCINCEUR

INFO RUENAAA/CNO

RUEDNKA/CINCLANT.

RUD TRO/CINCUS NA VEUR

RUTPOR/CONSIXTHF LTR

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RUNT CRIUSS LIBERTY

RUFMAS/HONSAEUR

RUFWAS/NSAEUR OFF GERMANY

RUÁPWS/DIRNSA

RUCIHSA/DIRNAVSE CGRU

RUCIHSA/ADIRNAVSECCRU

RUEDNKA/DIRNAVSECGRULANT

RUFPONA/DIRNAVSECGRUEUR

Fn: JCS

TO - USCINCEUR

TOPSECRETUCS 7347 JS SENDS.

DTG 080110 Z JUNE

SUBJ: USS LIBERTY (U)

REFS: AJCS 7337/2722702 JUN 07

B. COMSIXTHELT 37.535% JUN 47 CHOTAL?

1 - (U) CANCEL REF A.

2. (TS) REG LIBERTY COMPLY NEW OP ARMS DEFINED LAUT

SENTENCE PARA 2 REF B, UNTIL FURTHER MOTICE, 4-E-, NOT

CLOSE THEN MONEY
EACH DIG NM TO ISRAEL, SYRIA, ENTY AND 20 km TO
3-INE

TOP SECRET

DTG Ø8Ø11ØZ

FROM: JCS/JRC

SUBJECT: USS LIBERTY

REF: A. JCS 7337, Ø7223ØZ JUN 67

B. COMSIXTHFLT 071503Z JUN (NOTAL)

1. CANCEL REF A.

2. REQUEST LIBERTY COMPLY NEW OPS AREA DEFINED LAST SENTENCE PARA 2, REF B UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, I.E., NOT CLOSER THAN 100 NM TO ISRAEL, SYRIA, EGYPT AND 25 NM TO CYPRUS.



Ref 4

8 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJ: Positioning of the USS Liberty

Operating area for the USS Liberty was initially specified by JCS Message to USCINCEUR (DTG \$11545Z, Reference 1) which defined area as south of 32-00N and between 33-00E and 34-00E with a CPA to UAR of 12.5 miles and CPA to Israel of 6.5 miles. This message prompted the phone call from K12 to JCS/JRC of 5 June (Reference 2). JCS/JRC consideration of RAA's concern is reflected in Reference 3. The action taken by JCS was to send a message (DTG \$72238Z - copy not available in NSA) instructing adherence to a CPA off UAR of 28 NM and a CPA off Israel of 15 NM. **CONSIXTHFLT message issued previously (DTG \$71583Z - copy not available in NSA) established different CPA's. JCS sent another message (DTG \$88118Z, Reference 4), which cancelled their \$72238Z and requested LIBERTY comple with new ops area defined in the CONSIXTHFLT message until further hotice. This area was not further defined by coordinates but was "not closer than 188 NM to Israel, Syria and Egypt and 25 miles to Cyprus."

A. W. KELLOND

Chief, Operations Staff

Production

Incls:

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SECRET

Memorandum for the Record

8 June 1967

During the morning \$5 June, Messrs Harvey and Sheck, K12, contacted JCS/JRC by phone, and discussed with Mr. John Connell, NSALO to JCS/JRC, the CPA closest point of approach of 12.5 miles off UAR which JCS had authorized for USS Liberty. The purpose of the phonecon was to ascertain if any change to the approved track and CPA would be made because of the commencement of hostilities. We reminded Mr. Connell that experience in 1962 during the Cuban crisis, the USS Oxford was withdrawn a considerable distance from its normal operating area off Havana. Mr. Connel stated that he did not know of any change to be made, but that he would check and advise if any change was contemplated.

RICHARD HARVEY, Chief K12, 3891s

EUGENE SHECK, KIE. 3891s

HANDLE VIA COMINE CHANNELS ONLY

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JUN 57

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INFO AIG NINE NINE EIGHT

RUE PJS/JCS

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INCLAS FLASHSITREF/MEMMI/COMSIXTHFLT CPIQEOTZ JUN 67. ATTACK ON LIBERTY

SITREP ONE

1. AT 081252Z USS LIBERTY REPORTED UNDER ATTACK AT POSIT

3 1.23N 33.25E, WAS HIT BY TORPEDO AND WAS LISTING BADLY.

ATTACK FORCES HEREBY DECLARED HOSTILE BY COMSIXTHELT IAW

CINCUSNAVEUR INST PRS 120.5B. LIBERTY NESSAGE AUTHENTICATED.

HAVE DIRECTED IF 60 TO PROCEED TOWARD SCENE. TASK FORCE

69 PREGENT POSIT 34.22M 24.28E

HAVE DIRECTED AMERICA TO LAUNCH FOUR ARMED A4°S AND

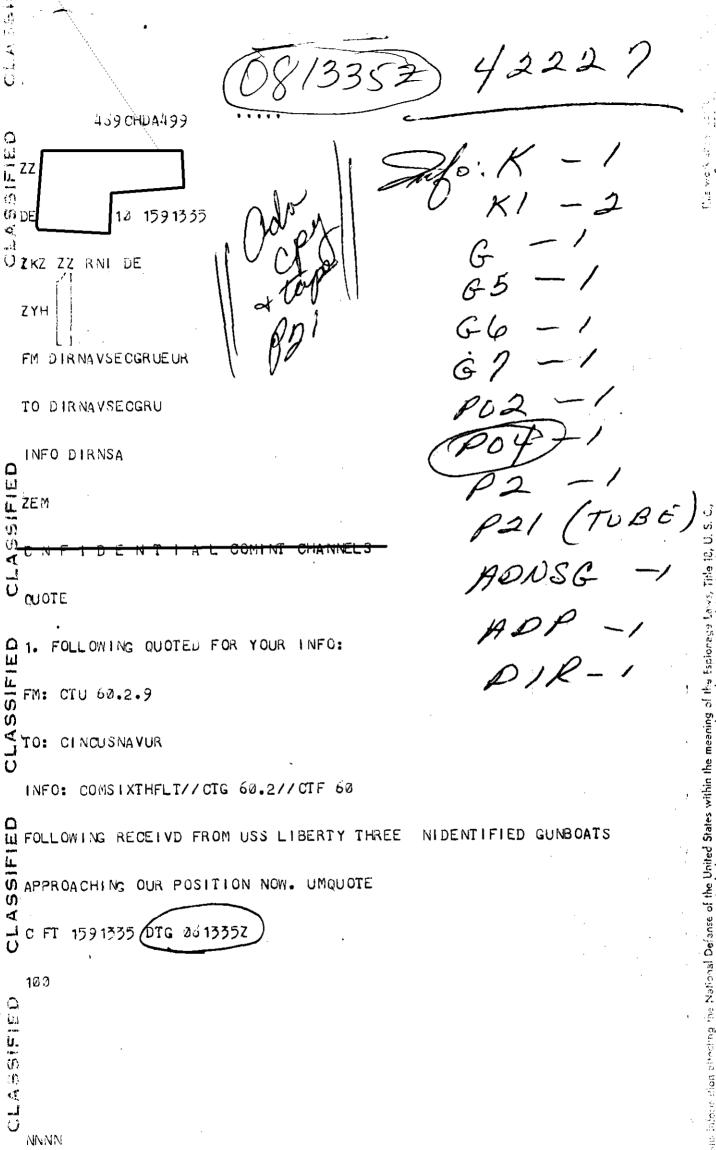
SAR ATOGA TO LAUNCH FOUR ARMED A1'S WITH FIGHTER COVER

TO DEFEND USS LIBERTY. PILOTS DIRECTED TO REMAIN CLEAR OF LAND.

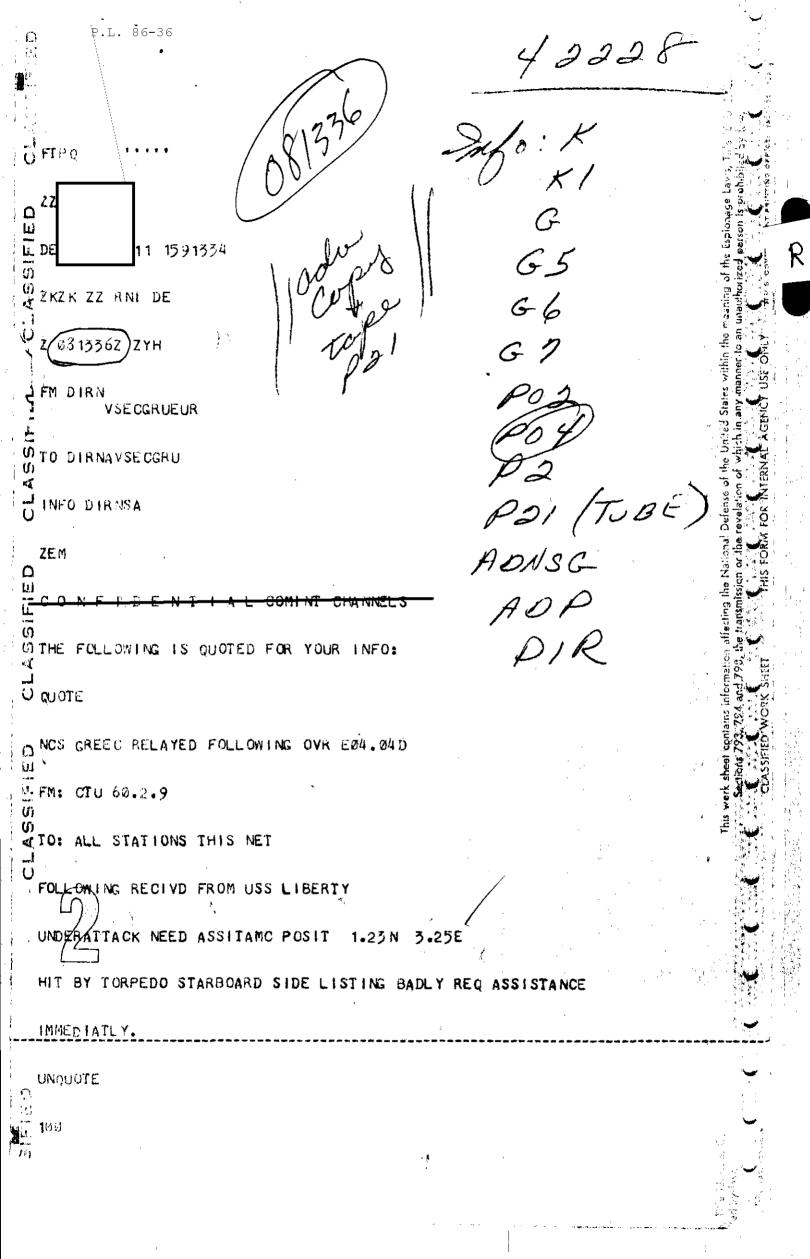
TANKERS ALSO WILL LAUNCH, WILL RELIEVED ON STATION.

ETA FIRST ACFT ON SCENE ONE HOUR AND 30 MINSAFTER LAUNCH.

EST IMATE LAUNCH AT 1345Z.



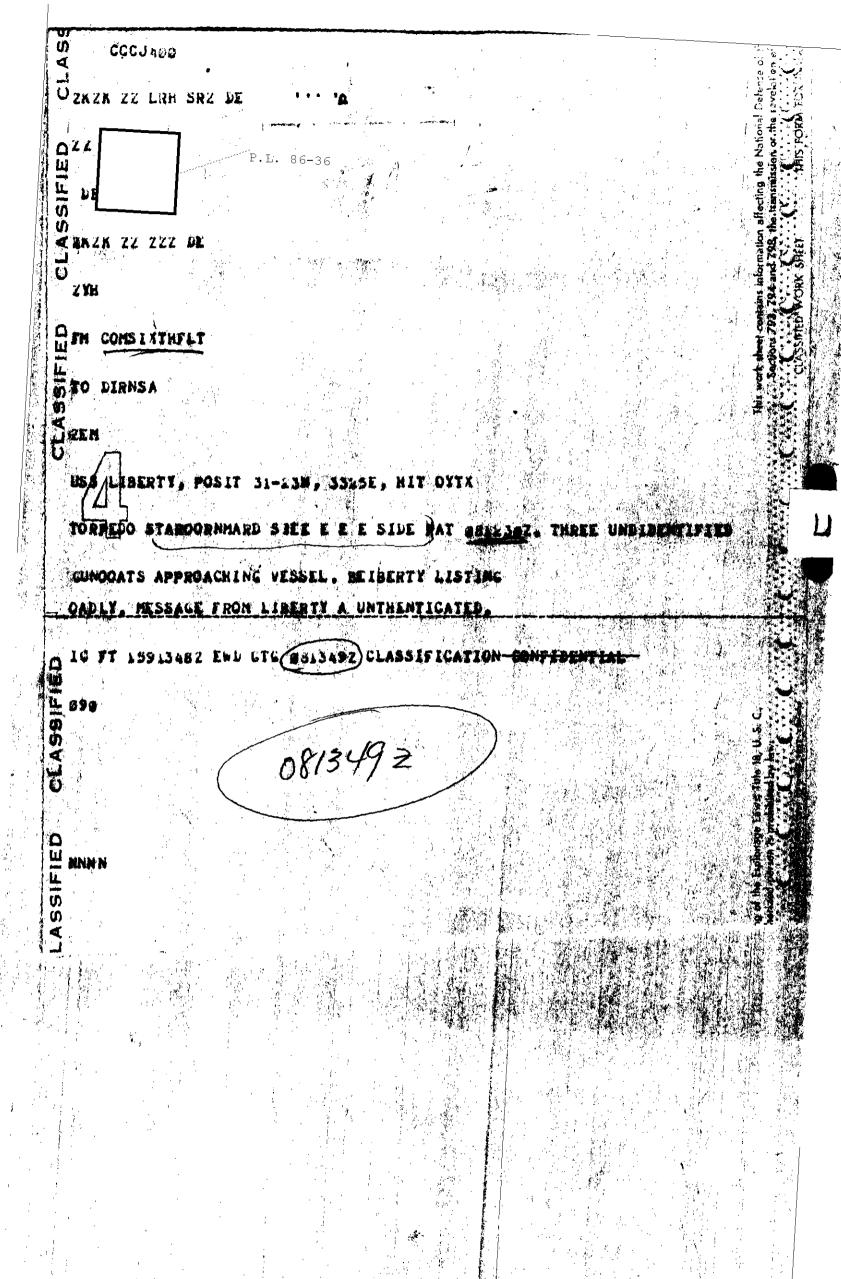
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FOLLOWING MSG PASSED BY USS LIBERTY

THO CHO INFO " CINCHSNA/EUR, JOS(JRC), CINCLANTELT, COA

EIXTH FLT, COMSERVEANT: QUOYE UNCLAS SIT FOR AIR ATTACK

AT ES12 52, ARILE SHIP C: COURSE 283 DECREES, ROLL

FIVE KNOTS POSITION 31 DEGREES, 35.5 MINS (OPTM,

DEGREES 29 HIVE EAST SMIP ATTACKED BY UNIDINTIFIED

WET FIGHTERS, BELIEVED TO ST. I TRABLI. APPROXIMATELY ST.

TRAFFING RIVE TADE ON SHIP APPROX 6512257 THALE TORK JED

BOATS, ONE IDENT AS ISRAELI APPROACHED SHIP ON STATEGRAD

WUARTER AT HICH SPEED. H LL NUMPER OF ONE POAT CON- 17.

OT APPROX 081427Z TOOK TORPEDO BOAT UNDER FIRE BY 50 CAL

MACHINE GONS AT HANGE OF APPROX 2002 YARDS TORPING BOYT

LAUNCHEN TORPEDOS IN STRAFFING ATEACK.

OIE FORPEUD PASIEU APPROT TO YARD?

ASTERN. APPRO ONE MIN LATER SHIP SUSTAINED TORPEDO

HIT STARBARD SIDE. PRIPHAT FEEDERARE STARBARD LIFT.

WATER TIGHT TO MORIE FORABLISHED AND HOLDING. AFTER MITAUK
ORFEDO GOAT, CLEARED TO EAUT ABOUT FIVE MILLS.
CLEARING AREA AT TEN KMOTE.

PHOTOS OF AIR CRAFT AND BOATS TAKEN. AFTER

INTIACK CON LETED TWO ISRAELI HELICOPTERS ORBITTED SHIP.

T ABOUT #81055Z RANGE 500 YARDS. ISRAELI INSIGNIA

CLEAFLY VIBIBLE, PHOTOS TAKEN. SEVERAL PROJECTILES HAVE

MEEN RECOVERED FROM TOPGIDE AREAS. NUMBER DEAD EST TEN.

TRIONSLY WORNDED EST ONE FIVE, TOTAL WOUNDED REVEN FIVE.

UNDERTERMINED NUMBER OF MISSING.

SHIP UNABLE TO CARRY OUT MISSION. WILL SUBMIT

ERSONNEL CARREPS ARAP SEPARATELY.

EXTENSIVE SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE TOPSIDE, LOVER DECK

SPACES, FORWARD DESTROYED.

5. COMMUNICATIONS CAPABAILITIES LIMITED. WILL

FROW IDE FILM AND PROJECTILES RECOVERED AS DIRECTED.

SHIP WILL REQUIRE DRY DOCKING AND EXTENSIVE

CAEFITTING. EN OFOTE. THE MESTATION MONITORING SIKTH FLEET

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